

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A granular or powdered detergent composition having reduced di-salt formation, comprising:

first particles ester comprising C<sub>16</sub> or C<sub>18</sub> enriched methyl ester sulfonate, wherein the first particles are substantially free of substances that cause more than a minor amount of additional disalt formation; and

second particles comprising nonionic surfactant and an additional detergent component ~~components~~ that causes ~~cause~~ more than a minor amount of additional di-salt formation, the second particles having a free moisture content of less than about 6 weight percent, the second particles being free of  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester;

the first particles post-added to the second particles, whereby the first and second particles are commingled, but remain separate and physically distinct.

2. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the methyl ester sulfonate  ~~$\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester~~ is sodium methyl ester sulfonate.

3. (currently amended) The composition of claim 2, wherein the methyl ester sulfonate  ~~$\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester~~ is a C<sub>16</sub> enriched methyl ester sulfonate.

4. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the methyl ester sulfonate  ~~$\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester~~ is prepared from beef tallow, palm kernel oil, palm oil, coconut oil, soybean oil, canola oil, cohune oil, coco butter, white grease, cottonseed oil, corn oil, rape seed oil, yellow grease, mixtures or fractions thereof.

5. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the second particles further comprise a builder, a secondary anionic surfactant, a polymer dispersant, an

oxidizing agent, a biocidal agent, a foam regulator, a binder, an anticaking agent, an activator, a catalyst, a thickener, a stabilizer, a fragrance, a soil suspending agent, a soil release agent, a filler, a brightener, a UV protectant, an enzyme, or a mixture thereof.

6. (original) The composition of claim 5, wherein the builder is sodium silicate, polysilicate, amorphous silicate, phyllosilicate, soda ash, or silicated soda ash.

7. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the free moisture content of the second particles is between about 1 to about 3 weight percent.

8. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is substantially free of secondary anionic surfactant.

9. (currently amended) A granular or powdered  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester detergent composition, comprising:

detergent particles comprising at least one detergent component that causes more than a minor amount of additional di-salt formation, and nonionic surfactant selected from alkanolamide, polyalkoxylated alkanolamide, polyoxyalkylene alkyl ethers, polyoxyalkylene alkylphenyl ethers, polyoxyalkylene sorbitan fatty acid esters, polyoxyalkylene sorbitol fatty acid esters, polyalkylene glycol fatty acid esters, alkyl polyalkylene glycol fatty acid esters, polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene alkyl ethers, polyoxyalkylene castor oils, polyoxyalkylene alkylamines, and glycerol fatty acid esters; the second particles substantially free of  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester; and

C<sub>16</sub> or C<sub>18</sub> enriched methyl ester sulfonate particles which are substantially free of substances that cause more than a minor amount of additional disalt formation;

the methyl ester sulfonate particles ester post-added to the detergent particles, whereby the methyl ester sulfonate particles and detergent particles are commingled, but remain separate and physically distinct in the detergent composition, and whereby additional di-salt formation is reduced.

10. (previously presented) The composition of claim 9, wherein the methyl ester sulfonate particles are a powder.

11. (previously presented) The composition of claim 9, wherein the methyl ester sulfonate is sodium methyl ester sulfonate.

12. (original) The composition of claim 11, wherein the methyl ester sulfonate is prepared from beef tallow, palm kernel oil, palm oil, coconut oil, soybean oil, canola oil, cohune oil, coco butter, white grease, cottonseed oil, corn oil, rape seed oil, yellow grease, mixtures or fractions thereof.

13. (previously presented) The composition of claim 9, wherein the detergent particles further comprise a builder, a secondary anionic surfactant, a polymer dispersant, an oxidizing agent, a biocidal agent, a foam regulator, a binder, an anticaking agent, an activator, a catalyst, a thickener, a stabilizer, a fragrance, a soil suspending agent, a filler, a brightener, a UV protectant, an enzyme, or a mixture thereof.

14. (previously presented) The composition of claim 9, further comprising adjuvant particles.

15. (previously presented) The composition of claim 14, wherein the adjuvant particles comprise an enzyme, a fragrance or an oxidizing agent.

16. (currently amended) A granular or powdered  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester detergent prepared by:

providing at least one detergent component that causes more than a minor amount of additional di-salt formation;

forming the at least one detergent component by granulating, spray drying or agglomerating into detergent particles, the second particles free of  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester; and

post-adding a powdered or agglomerated C<sub>16</sub> or C<sub>18</sub> enriched methyl ester sulfonate to the detergent portion so that the methyl ester sulfonate and detergent particles are commingled, but remain separate and physically distinct; whereby the amount of the di-salt formation is reduced.

17. (previously presented) The composition of claim 16, wherein the methyl ester sulfonate is free of components that cause more than a minor amount of additional di-salt formation.

18. (previously presented) The composition of claim 16, further prepared by:  
reducing the free moisture content of the detergent particles to between about 1 to about 6 weight percent.

19. (original) The composition of claim 16, wherein the detergent particles are a powder, pellets, beads, or granules.

20. (previously presented) The composition of claim 16, wherein the methyl ester sulfonate is sodium methyl ester sulfonate.

21. (previously presented) The composition of claim 16, further prepared by:  
applying a coating to the methyl ester sulfonate.